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PP RUEHAG RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHROV  
DE RUEHRH #0986 1760516  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
P 240516Z JUN 08  
FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8678  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0698  
RUEHRH/CHUSMTM RIYADH SA PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEOEEE/CJTF SWA PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/COMUSCENTAF SHAW AFB SC PRIORITY  
RHRMAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0078

S E C R E T RIYADH 000986

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO NEA/ARP ABAGWELL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/22/2018  
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [CIA](#) [ECON](#) [EU](#) [INRA](#) [MASS](#) [MCAP](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#)  
PGOV, PINR, PREL, RS, SA  
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN ARMS SALE TO SAUDI - DELAYED

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Gfoeller for reasons 1.4  
(b) and (d)

1. (S) In a routine diplomatic reception on June 18 hosted by the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh which included diplomatic representatives from various Embassies, Acting Pol Counselor inquired with Russian Political Counselor Alexander Bagdatiev on the status of the Russian weapons sale to Saudi Arabia that was announced in 2007. Bagdatiev gave a pessimistic opinion on the status of this weapons purchase. He stated there is currently no formal written agreement between Russia and Saudi Arabia to formalize of what was expected to be a large weapons purchase of Russian tanks and related armored vehicles by the Kingdom. He added that this weapons deal is currently pending Saudi consultations, and was unsure when, or if, the next step would occur.  
FRAKER